

Appropriations Committee. We will consider them, and we will accept those that we can accept. We hope we will be able to have the full cooperation of all Senators in that respect.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, since there is not much time left between now and the weekly luncheons both sides have planned for today, it is my suggestion that we go into a period for morning business so Senators can speak if they choose to between now and 12:30 p.m.—I think is the time for the luncheons to begin—and then we can come back in at 2:15 p.m. and resume consideration of the bill at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I think this is wise. We have two of the most senior Members of the Senate who are managing this bill. It has been said, and I will say it again, we are doing everything we can on this side to limit amendments. There are people who have amendments, and we want them to be able to offer them to this most important piece of legislation.

We just finished a leadership meeting, and those there who had a number of amendments indicated they would be willing to agree to short time agreements on them. I think it is something on which we can move forward.

I know Senator BYRD has a statement that is—I won't say long, but it is weighty. I think it would be better if we came back after the break and let him begin his statement. Personally, I want to be here to do that. I would agree to be in morning business until 12:30 p.m. with the time evenly divided, and come back at 2:15 p.m. If it is all right with Senator COCHRAN, Senator BYRD can have the floor at 2:15 p.m.

Mr. COCHRAN. That is certainly fine with me, and I join with the Senator in making that request. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period for morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The journal clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Alaska, I ask the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. SUNUNU).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the information of the Senate, under a previous order, following the adjournment of the Senate yesterday, H.R. 5005, making supplemental appropriations, was received from the House and considered passed by the Senate.

Also for the information of the Senate, all after the enacting clause of H.R. 4567, the Homeland Security appropriations bill, has been stricken. The text of S. 2537 has been inserted in lieu thereof and considered original text for the purpose of further amendments, and no points of order have been waived.

The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am very pleased to present this appropriations bill to the Senate. It is the culmination of a lot of hard work by all of the members of our subcommittee, as we conducted hearings to review the proposed budget from the Department of Homeland Security, and as we listened to those who have responsibilities for managing the various directorates and other agencies and activities that come within the ambit of the responsibilities of the Homeland Security Department.

We learned a lot in the hearings. We learned about new procedures that were being developed and deployed. We learned about new technologies that were being explored. In the bioterrorism area, we were learning about the research that is being done to make our capacity more sophisticated and capable of protecting the health and safety of all Americans from attacks in that area.

We have been challenged as we have never been challenged before to look again carefully at how we go about protecting the citizens of our great country. The experience of September 11, of course, stays in our mind as something that is unthinkable. The fact that it did happen is still unbelievable, and we realize that we have the responsibility—representatives of the people of this country serving in Congress today—to try to get it right so that kind of thing can't happen again.

We are blessed to be served in the administration by people such as Tom Ridge, the new Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. The President recommended this new Department be created. The Congress responded. The Governmental Affairs Committee, on which I served at that time, dealt with the challenge of the legal framework of defining the responsibilities of a new department and what activities would come under the Department. We brought together under this one Department 22 different Federal agencies, or at least parts of 22 different agencies. Some, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, were transferred underneath the jurisdictional responsibility of the Department to help make our effort more coherent, more effectively

and efficiently managed, and to achieve the goal of making our country safer and more secure for the citizens who live in the United States. I think we have made great progress.

This bill specifically provides funding of \$33.1 billion for the Department of Homeland Security for this next fiscal year, 2005. This is the second appropriations bill to fund the Department which began its operations short of a year and a half ago. The new Department has made substantial progress to merge the agency functions and the employees who were transferred under its responsibilities and to undertake its new duties to better secure and more effectively protect our great Nation.

We also have seen a new system put in place called the US VISIT Program to screen visaholders and to stop potential terrorists and those who may be dangerous, because they have committed crimes in the past, from entering our country to start with. US VISIT, through biometrics and other new innovations, has already identified, apprehended, or arrested more than 400 individuals. Through the science and technology directorate, the Department has aggressively moved forward on the successful testing of the first commercial portal monitors and handheld radiological identifiers to detect the smuggling of materials which could be used to build weapons of mass destruction. Federal air marshals have been deployed. State-of-the-art technologies have been introduced, and cockpit doors have been modified to increase the safety of air travel.

I know there can be criticism leveled at the efforts of the Transportation Security Administration which has been the agency identified with the responsibility for overseeing aviation security and many other areas of responsibility. But let me remind Senators—and this is contained in our committee report—I invite the attention of the Senate to the report, on page 31, where we talk about aviation security. My good friend, the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, mentioned people who might bring in bombs or material that can be used as explosives to blow up planes and otherwise harm us.

The Transportation Security Administration aviation security account [in this legislation] provides for Federal aviation security by employing the most efficient screening of all passengers and baggage, deployment of onsite law enforcement, continuation of a uniform set of background requirements for airport and airline personnel, deployment of the most current explosive detection technology, and creation of a model workplace.

The aviation security activities include funding for Federal and private contract passenger and baggage screeners, including personnel compensation and benefits, training, and human resource services; passenger checkpoint support; air cargo security; procurement and maintenance of explosive detection systems; and checkpoint support.

I suggest that the \$4,386,083,000 for aviation security contained in this bill is designed to meet the needs we have for improved and safer air travel, working with the airlines who are spending